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U.S.S. Memphis collection

Title: U.S.S. Memphis collection
Collection No: MSS.481
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1973-1979

Abstract: The collection comprises items commemorating the keel laying and launch of the nuclear submarine U.S.S. *Memphis*.

Donor: Department of the Navy, Washington D.C., 2000.
Processed by: Gerald Chaudron, September 2015.
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: U.S.S. Memphis collection, Preservation and Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: September 2015

Administrative information

U.S.S. *Memphis* (SSN-691), a Los Angeles-class submarine, was the sixth ship of the United States Navy to be named for Memphis, Tennessee. The contract to build it was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Newport News, Virginia, on February 4, 1971, and the keel was laid on June 23, 1973. The submarine was launched on April 3, 1976, and commissioned on December 17, 1977, with Commander G. Dennis Hicks in command.

In March 1981, the *Memphis* completed an around-the-world cruise via the Panama Canal, including operations with both the Sixth and Seventh Fleets. It was redesignated an experimental submarine during 1989 to test composite hull structures, unmanned underwater vehicles, advanced sonars, hull friction reduction, and other advanced technologies for the Los Angeles and Seawolf classes, but remained combat-capable. During a mid-1990s refit, the *Memphis* received numerous modifications, which added about 50 tons to its displacement.

In January 1994, the *Memphis* entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for refueling, overhaul and modifications to support its research and development role, and was assigned to Submarine Development Squadron 12 in Groton, Connecticut. After 33 years of service U.S.S. *Memphis* was taken out of service in a decommissioning ceremony at Groton on April 1, 2011.

Scope and contents

The collection comprises booklets and other items which commemorate the laying of the keel of U.S.S. *Memphis* in 1973 and its launch in 1976. There is also a folder of copies of clippings from Memphis newspapers about the submarine.

Subject terms

Memphis (Submarine).

Inventory

Box 1

Folder

- 1 U.S.S. *Memphis* commemorative items re: keel laying and launch, 1973, 1976.
- 2 Newspaper clippings (copies), 1973-1979.